(iv) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has notified 20 critical areas on consideration of over-exploitation of ground water resources and 32 over-exploited areas for registration of ground water structures.

(v) CGWA is regulating withdrawal of ground water by industries/ Projects. List of critical areas has been circulated to the State Pollution Control Boards and the Ministry of Environment and Forests which refer the new industries/projects to CGWA for obtaining permission.

(vi) Water conservation compaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups like youth and children, women, farmers and villagers, policy and opinion makers, publicity through print-media, telecasting of sports on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have been undertaken for the purpose.

(vii) The CGWB has also prepared a report entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water", which envisages recharge of 36453 Million Cubic Metre volume of surplus monsoon runoff, through construction of 39.25 lakhs artificial recharge and roof top main water harvesting structure.

(viii) The Ministry of Agriculture has implemented the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), whose impact evaluations have shown that watershed based interventions have led to increase in ground water recharge. Soil and water conservation works are also included under various activities of area development programmes, being undertaken by the Department of Land Resources, under the Ministry of Rural Development.

New authority for Water Shed Programme

1621. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Authority for Sustainable Development of Rainfed Areas in order to create a body of professionals to manage the entire Water Shed Programme of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the mandate proposed to be given to the said authority;

(c) the likely benefit to be derived from the operation of the said body; and

(d) by when, the said authority is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister in his Independence Day Speech on 15th August, 2005 had announced the setting up a National Rainfed Area Authority to focus on the problems of farmers in the dry land areas to usher in a new green revolution. A Brainstorming meeting was held on 15th February, 2006 in the Planning Commission with eminent persons and Government Departments to discuss the structure, composition and functions of the National Rainfed Area Authority.

Policy on water management

1622. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed a policy on water management with a view to preserve water resources in the country, both, for drinking and irrigation purposes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Separate policy on water management has not been framed by the Ministry of Water Resources. However, the National Water Policy (2002) addresses the water management issues, particularly in respect of preservation of water resources, both, for drinking and irrigation purposes.

Completion of irrigation projects in **Andhra Pradesh**

1623. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of various major, minor and medium irrigation projects under construction as on date in the tribal areas of various States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, indicating the capacity, and estimated cost, cost escalation and time overrun, if any, project-wise; and